

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:  
image obtaining means for obtaining a second image of a predetermined aspect size ratio from a first image on the basis of an aspect size ratio of said first image;  
reducing means for reducing the second image obtained by said image obtaining means; [[and]]  
associating means for associating the second image reduced by said reducing means with the first image; and  
adding means for adding specific information to an arbitrary end section of the reduced image obtained by said reducing means.

2. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the aspect size ratio of the first image is out of a predetermined range, said image obtaining means obtains the second image.

3. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said image obtaining means generates an image of the aspect size ratio of the predetermined value as the second image.

4. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reducing means reduces the second image obtained by said image obtaining means at a same reduction ratio in both vertical and lateral directions of the second image.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein said reducing means obtains the reduced image such that the reduced image to which the specific information was added by said adding means goes in an image frame of a predetermined size.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein said adding means adds the specific information to both end sections in the longitudinal direction between the vertical and lateral directions of the reduced image.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1 wherein said adding means uses a reduced image to which the specific information was added as an image for display.

9. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:  
image obtaining means for obtaining at least two images of a second image in an arbitrary area portion of a first image and a third image in the other area portion on the basis of an aspect size ratio of the first image;

reducing means for reducing the second and third images obtained by said image obtaining means at different reduction ratios, respectively;

synthesizing means for synthesizing the second and third images to obtain a synthesized image; and

associating means for associating the synthesized image obtained by said synthesizing means with the first image.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein in the case where the aspect size ratio of the first image is out of a predetermined range, said image obtaining means obtains the second and third images.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said reducing means reduces the second and third images at the different reduction ratios so that the second and third images after completion of the reduction go in an image frame of a predetermined size, respectively.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said reducing means reduces the second image at a same reduction ratio in both vertical and lateral directions of the second image, reduces the third image at a reduction ratio larger than that of the second image in the direction corresponding to the longitudinal direction of the first image between the vertical and lateral directions of the third image, and reduces the third image at a same reduction ratio as that of the second image in the other direction.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said 'image obtaining means obtains the second image from the arbitrary area portion of the first image.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the arbitrary area portion includes a middle section of the first image.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said image obtaining means picks out the second image having a size of  $a \times B$  from the first image, where

A is size in the longitudinal direction between the vertical and lateral directions of the first image, and

B is size in the minor direction of the first image.

16. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising display means for displaying reduced images obtained by said reducing means.

17. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said display means displays a list of a plurality of reduced images obtained by said reducing means.

18. (Currently Amended) An image processing system to which a plurality of units of equipment are connected so that they can communicate, wherein at

least one of said plurality of units of equipment has a function of an image processing apparatus, and said image processing apparatus comprises:

image obtaining means for obtaining a second image of a predetermined aspect size ratio from a first image on the basis of an aspect size ratio of the first image;

reducing means for reducing the second image obtained by said image obtaining means; [[and]]

associating means for associating the second image reduced by said reducing means with the first image; and

adding means for adding specific information to an arbitrary end section of the reduced image obtained by said reducing means.

19. (Currently Amended) An image processing method which can manage a plurality of images and display a list by using reduced images of the images, comprising:

a generating step, of, when a target image is an elongated image whose aspect ratio is larger than a first predetermined value, generating a reduced image of an aspect ratio of a second predetermined value from an arbitrary area portion of the target image;

a display step, of displaying the reduced image of the aspect ratio of the second predetermined value generated in said generating step; [[and]]

an associating step, of associating the reduced image with the target image; and

an adding step, of adding specific information to an arbitrary end section of the reduced image obtained in said reducing step.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the second predetermined value includes the first predetermined value.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein in said generating step, a same reduction ratio is set in both vertical and lateral directions of the reduced image.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein specific marks are added to one or a plurality of upper, lower, right, and left positions of the reduced image of the aspect ratio of the second predetermined value.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein the specific marks are added to both ends in the longitudinal direction of the reduced image of the aspect ratio of the second predetermined value.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein in said generating step, the reduced image to which the specific marks were added is used as a reduced image for display.

25. (Currently Amended) An image processing method which can manage a plurality of images and display a list by using reduced images of the images, comprising:

a generating step, of, when a target image is an elongated image whose aspect ratio is larger than a predetermined value, generating a reduced image of the target image, said generating including obtaining a second image from an arbitrary area portion of the target image and a third image from the other area portion of the target image on the basis of the aspect size ratio of the first image, by making reduction ratios in the vertical and lateral directions different in [[an]] the arbitrary area portion and the other area portion of the target image, respectively, and synthesizing the second and third images to obtain the reduced image;

a display step, of displaying the reduced image generated in the generating step; and

an associating step, of associating the reduced image with the target image.

26. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 25, wherein said generating step includes the steps of:

reducing the arbitrary area portion at a same reduction ratio in both vertical and lateral directions;

when the target image is a laterally-wide image, setting the reduction ratio in the lateral direction in the other area portion to be larger than that in the vertical direction, making the reduction ratio in the vertical direction identical to that of the arbitrary area portion, and reducing the image; and

when the target image is a vertically-long image, making the reduction ratio in the lateral direction in the other area portion identical to that in the arbitrary area portion, setting the reduction ratio in the vertical direction to be larger than that in the lateral direction, and reducing the image.

27. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the arbitrary area portion includes a mid section of the target image.

28. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the arbitrary area portion includes an area having a size of  $a \times B$ , where

A is size in the longitudinal direction between the vertical and lateral directions of the target image, and

B is size in the minor direction of the target image.

29. (Currently Amended) A storage medium which stores a computer-readable program, wherein said program realizes an image processing method comprising:

a generating step, of, when a target image is an elongated image whose aspect ratio is larger than a first predetermined value, generating a reduced image of an aspect ratio of a second predetermined value from an arbitrary area portion of the target image;

a display step, of displaying the reduced image of the aspect ratio of the second predetermined value generated in said generating step; [[and]]



an associating step, of associating the reduced image with the target image;  
and

an adding step, of adding specific information to an arbitrary end section of the reduced image obtained in said reducing step.

30. (Currently Amended) A storage medium which stores a computer-readable program, wherein said program realizes an image processing method comprising:  
a generating step, of, when a target image is an elongated image whose aspect ratio is larger than a predetermined value, generating a reduced image of the target image, said generating including obtaining a second image from an arbitrary area portion of the target image and a third image from the other area portion of the target image on the basis of the aspect size ratio of the first image, by making reduction ratios in the vertical and lateral directions different in [[an]] the arbitrary area portion and the other area portion of the target image, respectively, and synthesizing the second and third images to obtain the reduced image;

a display step, of displaying the reduced image generated in the generating step; and

an associating step, of associating the reduced image with the target image.